IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed office system provided with terminal devices installed for a plurality of users, and a server device connected to the terminal devices via a communication channel, for displaying information on a screen of a terminal device of each of the users, wherein the server includes: ~~comprising:~~

~~working situation display means for collectively displaying an information aggregate including at least two types of information received from each user, including the user's working situation image, and character information concerning the user's working situation on the screen of the terminal device of the user; and~~

~~virtual room display means for displaying, for each user, diagram images indicating the user's virtual single-room office on the screen of the terminal device of the user;~~

~~wherein the character information is updated on the basis of each user's operation; and~~

~~in case that a first user leaves his/her desk, on the screen of the terminal devices of the other users, the first user's working situation is replaced with a blind image of the first user with character information~~

receiving means for receiving information on whether a user is presently working or on leave from the terminal device; and

transmitting means for transmitting the information to each of the terminal devices, wherein

each of the terminal devices includes:

receiving means for receiving the information on whether a user is presently working or on leave from the terminal device;

display means for displaying (i) a virtual office area where a user's virtual single room office in a department is displayed, with each user's virtual single room office having a picked-up image which is updated repeatedly and having information on whether the user is working or on leave transmitted from the server device and a user's name, (ii) a class organization button allowing said display means to display an organization chart, (iii) information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, and (iv) a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user; and

changing means for changing display of a user's virtual single room office into display of a user's virtual single room office in a desired department in response to selecting the desired department indicated in the organization chart.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein selecting the user to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

4. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~working situation~~ display means displays a virtual user common space area

including a meeting room, a training room, a data room, and a lounge with the virtual office on the screen of the terminal device.

5. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said character information concerning the working situation includes at least one of user's name, a current working situation, an operation content, a reason why the user is not working, a place where the user is, and~~ the user's virtual single room has information on a future working schedule.

6. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in said server device, and wherein said ~~working situation~~ display means displays character information indicating that the user is on the telephone ~~as said character information concerning another user's working situation~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when a user is resting, said ~~working situation~~ display means does not display the resting or on leave user's working situation image, and displays ~~user's working situation image, and displays~~ an image indicating that the user is resting or on leave.

8. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected other user's virtual single-room office; and

virtual single-room office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visited user on the screen of the terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

9. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and

office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visitor on the screen of the terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning

visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

10. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

input means for inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and

telephone communication means by which when the visitation or the telephone to the other user's virtual single-room office is inputted, the server device makes telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a telephone channel board, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

11. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said cameras to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted images to said server device,

said server device comprises:

generating means for generating a reduced compressed image by reducing the number of pixels of the received image; and

transmitting means for transmitting the generated reduced compressed images to said terminal device, and

the transmitted reduced compressed images are displayed in the screens of said terminal device as the other users' working situation images.

12. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 8, wherein said terminal device comprises:

a camera for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server device, and

said server device comprises:

transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device.

13. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 9, wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server device, and

said server device comprises:

transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device.

14. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a portable terminal device having no camera as said terminal device is displayed, said ~~working situation~~ display means displays a user's image registered beforehand in said server device.

15. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~working situation~~ display means comprises setting means for setting a frame rate by a user's operation when another user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device is received and displayed.

16. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 3, further comprising:

indicating means for indicating an organization on the screen in which the virtual single-room offices of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office; and

moving means for moving the screen to the virtual office area of a different organization in accordance with the indication by said indicating means.

17. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 14, further comprising:

referring means for referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in said server device;

generating means for generating display data for screen display of said portable information terminal by said server device; and

transmitting means for transmitting the generated display data to said portable information terminal, wherein

said portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

18. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by said terminal device.

19. (Original) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said server device comprises:

time setting means for setting a user's standard working time; and

sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody sound to said terminal device, and

said terminal device comprises:

a sound source device; and

ringing means for receiving said sent instruction for the melody sound to ring the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

20. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said server device comprises:

setting means for setting a user's standard rest time or a rest interval time; and

sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody sound to said terminal device, and

said terminal device comprises:

a sound source device; and

ringing means for receiving the sent instruction for melody sound to ring a rest promoting melody sound for urging a worker's rest.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of managing terminal devices provided for a plurality of users in a distributed office system ~~provided with terminal devices installed for a plurality of users, and a server device connected to the terminal devices via a communication channel~~ for displaying information on a screen of ~~the~~ a terminal device of ~~the user~~ each of the users ~~in the distributed office system~~, comprising the steps of:

receiving information on whether a user is presently working or on leave from the terminal device;

~~displaying diagram images for each user indicating a user's virtual single-room office on the screen of the terminal device of the user;~~

~~collectively displaying an information aggregate of at least two types of information received from each other, including a user's working situation image, and character information concerning the user's working situation; and~~

~~updating character information on the basis of each user's operation,~~

~~wherein, in case that a first user leaves his/her desk, on the screen of the terminal devices of the other users, the first user's working situation is replaced with a blind image of the first user with character information~~

displaying (i) a virtual office area where a user's virtual single room office in a department is displayed, with each user's virtual single room office having a picked-up image which is updated repeatedly and having information on whether the user is working or on leave transmitted from the server device and a user's name, (ii) a class organization button allowing the display means to display an organization chart, (iii) information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, (iv) and a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user; and

changing a display of a user's virtual single room office into a display of a user's virtual single room office in a desired department in response to selecting the desired department indicated in the organization chart..

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein selecting of the users to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

24. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the other user's working situation comprises displaying a virtual user common space area including a meeting room, a training room, a data room, or a lounge with the virtual office area on the screen of the terminal device.

25. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein ~~the character information concerning the working situation includes at least one of a user's name, a present working situation and an operation content, a reason why the user is not working and a place where the user is, and~~ the user's virtual single room has information on a future working schedule.

26. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in the server device, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying character information indicating that the user is on the telephone as the character information concerning the user's working situation.

27. (Currently Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises, when the user is resting, not displaying the resting or on leave user's working situation image, and displaying an image indicating that the user is resting or on leave.

28. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

inputting visitation to the selected other user's virtual single-room office; and

when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visited user on the screen of the terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

29. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

inputting visitation to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and

when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visitor on the screen of the terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

30. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and

when the visitation or the telephone to the selected user's virtual single-room office is inputted, making telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a telephone channel board by the server device, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

31. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on said terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting the converted image to the server device;

generating a reduced compressed image by reducing the number of pixels of the received image by the server device;

transmitting the generated reduced compressed image to the terminal device; and

displaying said transmitted reduced compressed image as another user's working situation image in the screen of the terminal device.

32. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

33. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

34. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a

portable terminal device not having a camera as the terminal device is displayed, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying a user's image registered before hand in the server device.

35. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises the steps of: receiving the user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device; and displaying the image in a frame rate set by a user's operation.

36. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

indicating an organization on the screen on which the virtual single-room offices of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office area; and

moving the screen to the virtual office area of the different organization in accordance with the indication.

37. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in the server device;

generating optimum display data for screen display of the portable information terminal by the server device; and

transmitting the generated display data to the portable information terminal, wherein

the portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

38. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by the terminal device.

39. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

setting a user's standard working time by the server device;

sending an instruction for melody sound to the terminal device, and

receiving the sent instruction for the melody sound by the terminal device to ring by an attached sound source device the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

40. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

setting a user's standard rest time or a rest interval time by the server device;

sending an instruction for melody sound to the terminal device; and

receiving the sent instruction for the melody sound by the terminal device to ring a rest promoting melody sound for urging a worker's rest by an attached sound source device.

41. (New) Terminal devices installed for a plurality of users, connected to a server device via a communication channel, for displaying information on a screen of a terminal device of each of the users in a distributed office system, comprising:

receiving means for receiving the information on whether a user is presently working or on leave from the terminal device;

display means for displaying (i) a virtual office area where a user's virtual single room office in a department is displayed, with each user's virtual single room office having a picked-up image which is updated repeatedly and having information on whether the user is working or on leave transmitted from the server device and a user's name, (ii) a class organization button allowing said display means to display an organization chart, (iii) information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, (iv) and a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user; and

changing means for changing display of user's virtual single room offices into display of a user's virtual single room office in a desired department in response to selecting the desired department indicated in the organization chart.